I. Vietnamese Resistance to Empire

A. Vietnam Pre-Colonialism

1. rural agrarian economy

a. small farmers farming own land

b. subsistence agriculture

c. animal power-water buffalo

2. Family most important institutions and embedded in web of relationships at

the village level.

3. Village was central political, economic, social and cultural institution

a. not just a place

i. religion was Confucianism and Buddhism

ii. a communal temple “the center of village life”

iii. housed the guardian spirit, moral unity of the village

b. political control: village council and headman

c. myriad social organizations

4. Villages organized into provinces into central authority (but always changing)

a. decentralized

b. few taxes

B. Vietnam; French Colonialism

Quote

1. Economy

a. land to French and elite

b. turned land into monocrop farming of rice (for export)

i. increased production of rice

ii. decreased per capita domestic consumption (politically correct)

d. rubber plantations for export

e. extraction of coal, zinc and tin

f. infrastructure for exports paid for by heavy taxes

g. government monopoly of salt, opium and alcohol

g. consequences

i. peasants became dependent labor

ii. sharecroppers, tenant farmers, contract labor

iii. no middle class

iv. coercive non-industrialization

2. Political

a. eliminated village committee

b. more power to village chiefs

c. change of system for choosing members of council

“those devoted to the cause of the central government”

c. established more centralized authority

3. Education

a. system of indoctrination

b. system of selecting for administration (unequal-important)

c. ideology (go to school in France, then return)

C. Resistance to French Pre-WWII

1. Vietnamese actually fought war of national liberation from 1860 to 1975,

against French, Japanese, Americans

Anti-French Manifesto 1862

We fear your valor, but we fear Heaven more than your power. We vow that we shall fight everlastingly and without respite. When we have nothing else left, we will arm our soldiers with branches. How then can you live among us?

2. French conquest began in 1860 (already Portuguese intervention in 1615, introducing guns)

3. 1872-1882 ten year resistance in defense of Hanoi.

4. uprisings in 1862, 1885, 1896, 1909

5. emergence of the communist party and an uprising in 1929

a. violent French responds, thousand killed and jailed

6. resistance to Japanese and support of allies.

7. 1942 Nguyen Giap formed small guerilla band became Viet Minh

D. Post-WWII

If we have to fight, we shall fight. You will kill ten of our men, and we will kill one of yours, and in the end it will be you will tire of it. Ho Chi Minh

1. Whenever the Vietminh were able to take control of an area they did exactly the opposite of the French

2. land reform to peasants, cut taxes, reestablished the village council sytem